

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-18, 22 and 24-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, and 22 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the present amendments can be found at least at paragraphs [0006], [0010]-[0012] and [0067]-[0069].

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 15-18, 22, 23, and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tromczynski et al [US 2006/0010023] in view of Wright et al [US 6,581,040] and Greene et al [US 2003/0004854]. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 22 all recite a convention bureau visitor (CVB) organization that performs a number of tasks relating to the potential destination event organizer and the individual service providers. Tromczynski, on the other hand, does not disclose any third party acting as an intermediary between an event organizer and a plurality of service providers whatsoever, let alone a CVB organization. Rather, Tromczynski discloses a system where an event organizer (“meeting planner”) deals directly with potential service providers on all aspects of the planning operation via a computer system with no other persons or organization involved.

Despite the fact that Tromczynski clearly does not disclose a CVB organization, the Office Action states that the computer system used by the meeting planner is interpreted as being a CVB organization. Applicant respectfully submits that a computer system cannot be considered an “organization,” which means “association” or “society.” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/organization>.) For this reason alone, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

To advance prosecution, however, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1, 11, and 22 to further clarify that the CVB organization includes representatives other than the service providers who are tasked with promoting a given destination and working with potential destination event organizers in organizing events at the destination. As noted above, Tromczynski discloses only an event organizer and service providers and does not contemplate the involvement of representatives of a CVB organization to act as an intermediary. Tromczynski therefore does not teach or suggest all of the limitations for which it is cited in the Office Action.

In addition, there is nothing cited in the Office Action as providing a reasoned rationale for how or why one of skill in the art would have sought to modify Tromczynski to include a CVB organization as claimed. In fact, Tromczynski takes as a given that the meeting planner can handle all aspects of planning an event with numerous competing service providers and does not address or even recognize the problems solved by the present invention. Tromczynski therefore teaches away from the inclusion of a CVB organization as claimed. It is therefore respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

With regard to claims 2 and 5-9 depending from claim 1, claims 15-18 depending from claim 11 and claims 23 and 26-29 depending from claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable because the underlying base claims are allowable, although Applicants do not acquiesce in the positions set forth in the Office Action and reserve the right to make additional arguments with respect to these claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tromczynski in view of Wright and Greene and further in view of Creedle et al [US2008/0133307]. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable because the underlying base claims are allowable, although Applicants do not acquiesce in the positions set forth in the Office Action and reserve the right to make additional arguments with respect to these claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim 10 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Tromczynski in view of Wright and Greene and in further view of Official Notice. It is respectfully requested that this claim is allowable because the underlying base claim is allowable. However, Applicants also object to the use of Official Notice to reject the claim. Official Notice unsupported by documentary evidence should only be taken where the facts asserted to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. MPEP 2144.03. Applicants respectfully submit that the representation that having an application service provider update and maintain software in the specific context of where the application service provider who is different than the CVB organization using the software is old and well known is not a fact that is capable of “instant and unquestionable demonstration” and must therefore be supported by documentary evidence.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad J. Wickman', with a stylized, flowing script.

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